

Message Text

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16

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FSE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 /002 W

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P 090330Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2002

UNCLAS DACCA 4679

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : CASC (RHETT, CAPTAIN BARNETT)

SUBJECT : W/A: (RHETT, CAPTAIN BARNETT)

REF: (A) STATE 221129, (B) STATE 218324

1. POST REGRETS ERROR.

2. THE COST OF THE FLIGHT FROM DACCA TO NEW YORK WAS \$705. THE REMAINDER OF THE \$724 EXPENDED, I.E., \$19, WAS FOR THE NEW YORK-WASHINGTON FLIGHT. AS DIRECTED IN 7FAM 375.7 THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED:

- A. \$724
- B. NONE
- C. \$724
- D. NONE
- E. THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED IN REF B WAS \$966. \$724 WAS SPENT. THIS WOULD RELEASE TO THE DEPARTMENT THE REMAINDER OR \$242.
- F. SEE PARAS 5 AND 6 BELOW.
- G. NONE.

3. CAPTAIN RHETT'S PLANS WERE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE HE WOULD OBTAIN THE FUNDS TO PAY BACK HIS LOAN. 1712 EYE ST., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 IS HIS MEDICAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. (RHETT IS AN M.D.) WE HAVE NO PHONE NUMBER FOR THIS OFFICE.

4. RHETT AFTER HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON WAS TO PROCEED TO
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THE HOME OF FRIENDS AT 316 EAST HWY 83, MCALLEN, TEXAS.

AGAIN, NO PHONE NUMBER AVAILABLE.

5. THE POST FIRST BECAME AWARE OF RHETT'S REQUIREMENT FOR REPATRIATION ON AUG. 19 WHEN HE APPEARED IN OUR CHITTAGONG OFFICE. EFFORTS AT THAT TIME WERE DIRECTED TOWARD ESTABLISHING IF HE HAD PERSONAL RESOURCES AND IF HE QUALIFIED FOR REPATRIATION AS AN AMERICAN SEAMAN. ALL COMMUNICATION WITH CONSULAR STAFF WAS BY PHONE. ON AUG. 26 RHETT APPEARED IN DACCA WITH THE GOAL OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CONSULAR OFFICER AND TO CLAIM HIS SALARY FROM THE BANGLADESH SHIPPING CORPORATION WHICH OWNED THE BANGLAR UPOHAR, THE SHIP WHOSE SERVICE RHETT QUIT IN CHITTAGONG. RHETT'S REASONS FOR RESIGNING WERE: (1)THE SHIP ALLEGEDLY COLLIDED WITH AND SANK ANOTHER VESSEL IN CHITTAGONG HARBOR. NO OFFER TO HELP WAS MADE AND LIVES WERE LOST. (2) THE SHIP CHARTED A COURSE OFF SOCOTRA WHICH WAS HAZARDOUS TO SHIP AND CREW (3) THE SHIP WAS NOT SEAWORTHY AND CARRIED NO SPARES. RHETT'S STATEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WILL FOLLOW BY OM TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COAST GUARD.

6. FURTHER ATTEMPT, WERE MADE TO ESTABLISH RHETT'S ABILITY TO REPATRIATE HIMSELF ONCE HE WAS IN DACCA. HE CONSTANTLY EXPRESSED FEARS FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY IN BANGLADESH DUE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CONDITIONS ON THE BANGLAR UPOHAR. THESE FEARS WERE BASED APPARENTLY ON HIS OWN INTERPRETATIONS AND ON WARNINGS BY THE CREW OF POSSIBLE PHYSICAL DANGERS FROM THIRD PARTIES. FOR THIS REASON, THE EMBASSY REQUESTED A REPATRIATION LOAN TO HIM.
BOSTER

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